

Appl. No. : **10/718,374**
Filed : **November 19, 2003**

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 2A and 2B have been amended to copy identifying text from the specification to the various blocks in the block diagrams.

Appl. No. : **10/718,374**
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REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are responsive to the November 1, 2005 Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Objection to Figures 2A and 2B

The block diagrams of Figures 2A and 2B have been amended to add labels, as requested by the examiner. The labels are taken from the specification, and do not add any new matter.

Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to Figures 2A and 2B.

Response to Rejection of Claims 1-13 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that amendments in the Response to Office Action mailed August 1, 2005 added new matter to the application.

Applicant's amendment added reference numbers 25-28 to existing items of Figure 5A. No portion of the figure (except for the addition of the reference numbers) was modified. The referenced items 25-28 were clearly described in the original specification. Accordingly, merely adding the reference numbers does not constitute new matter.

The applicant amended paragraph [0027] of the specification to refer to reference numbers 25-28 by adding the phrase "and fluorescent light sockets 25-28." Applicant has amended the specification to add reference numbers to refer to elements in the drawings as filed. It is clear in the specification as filed that items 25-28 are fluorescent light sockets. The specification describes the fluorescent light fixture 13, with fluorescent tubes 15 and 21. Figure 5A shows the fluorescent light sockets provided to the fluorescent tubes 13 and 21 in the fluorescent light fixture 13.

Applicant also amended paragraph [0027] to change "(not shown)" to "(not shown in Figure 5B)." The amended paragraph adds clarification and does not constitute new matter.

Appl. No. : **10/718,374**
Filed : **November 19, 2003**

Paragraph [0027] of the original specification clearly states that "[T]he repeater unit 10 includes a plug 19 that fits into a fluorescent light fixture socket (not shown) and is mechanically adapted to accept a first fluorescent bulb 21 so that the functionality of the fluorescent light fixture 13 is maintained." The plug 19 shown and labeled in Figure 5B, but hidden by the socket 25 in Figure 5A. Thus, it is clear from the drawings and the original specification that the phrase "a plug 19 that fits into a fluorescent light fixture socket (not shown)" is referring to Figure 5B.

Accordingly, the amendments to Figure 5A and paragraph [0027] does not contain new matter, and Applicant request the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Response to Rejection of Claims 1-13 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0199247 to Strierner. Strierner teaches a screw-in type light socket. Strierner does not teach or suggest installing the repeater in connection with a first fluorescent bulb configured to replace a standard fluorescent bulb in a fluorescent light fixture in order to maintain function of the fixture.

Specifically, regarding Claim 1, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a transceiver unit, a first power supply electrically coupled to the transceiver unit, a plug configured to mate with a fluorescent light fixture socket, a housing unit for housing the transceiver and first power supply, wherein the plug is provided to the housing unit, the housing unit adapted to accept a fluorescent bulb, and a first fluorescent bulb configured to replace a standard fluorescent bulb, the first fluorescent bulb provided to the housing to allow functionality of the fluorescent light fixture to be maintained.

Regarding Claim 2, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture that includes wherein the first power supply includes a rechargeable power storage module recharged by electrical power to the fluorescent light fixture socket.

Regarding Claim 3, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture wherein the first power supply includes a rechargeable power storage cell and a power charger, the power charger recharging the rechargeable power storage cell when electric power is supplied to the fluorescent light fixture socket.

Appl. No. : **10/718,374**
Filed : **November 19, 2003**

Regarding Claim 4, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture, wherein the housing unit further includes at least one fluorescent light socket.

Regarding Claim 5, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture, wherein the housing unit comprises a first mating structure for mechanically installing into the fluorescent light fixture.

Regarding Claim 6, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture, wherein the housing unit further comprises a fluorescent light socket for maintaining the fluorescent light fixture functionality.

Regarding Claim 7, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture, wherein the first power supply is powered-on when the fluorescent light fixture is powered-off.

Regarding Claim 8, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture, wherein the first power supply is powered-off when the fluorescent light fixture is powered-on.

Regarding Claim 9, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture, wherein the first power supply is being recharged when the fluorescent light fixture is powered-on.

Regarding Claim 10, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture, wherein the first power supply is adapted to provide power to the transceiver unit even when electrical power is unavailable to the fluorescent light fixtures.

Regarding Claim 11, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture, wherein the fluorescent light fixture is located in an apartment building and a transducer sends a signal to the electrically powered fixture.

Regarding Claim 12, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a repeater for a fluorescent fixture, wherein the transceiver unit receives a signal from at least one transducer and re-transmits the signal to a base station.

Accordingly, Applicant asserts that Claims 1-12 are allowable over the prior art, and Applicant requests allowance of Claims 1-12.

Appl. No. : 10/718,374
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Response to Rejection of Claim 13 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application Publication US 2003/0199247 A1 to Striemer.

Regarding Claim 13, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest the repeater of Claim 1, wherein the housing unit is adapted to insert into an exit sign. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that Claim 13 is allowable over the prior art, and Applicant requests allowance of Claim 13.


Summary

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants request allowance of Claims 1-13. If there are any remaining issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (949) 721-6305 or at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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